

M/023/003

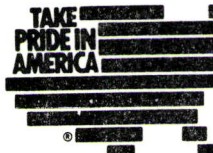


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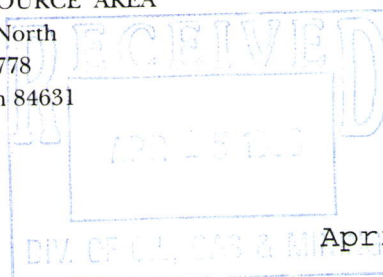
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT HOUSE RANGE RESOURCE AREA

35 East 500 North
P.O. Box 778
Fillmore, Utah 84631



IN REPLY REFER TO:

3809
(U-054)
UTU-63446



April 12, 1996

GREG G HAWKINS, MINE MANAGER
BRUSH WELLMAN ENGINEERED MATERIALS
PO BOX 815
DELTA UT 84624

RE: Topaz Mine, Juab County, Notice to Commence Mining, Blue
Chalk North #2 and Monitor #3 Pits

Dear Mr. Hawkins:

On April 1, 1996, the above-referenced notification was received in my office. This notification and the case file for Brush Wellman's approved operations have been reviewed by BLM staff, and a summary is presented.

In 1981, Brush Wellman submitted a Plan of Operations for existing and future operations to be executed on the Topaz Mine property. BLM prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that conformed with the requirements of NEPA at that time, and an approval was issued from this office on July 1, 1981. Clearances for archaeological and paleontological resources and threatened and endangered species (flora and fauna) were not included with that EA, however, a checklist indicated that these resources would not be affected.

In 1984, a BLM Archaeologist completed an inventory in T. 13 S., R. 12 W., Section 9 and found that most of this area was already impacted by mining. No cultural resources were observed, but a recommendation was made that inventories be made before future operations were initiated. Letters were mailed by the Authorized Officer, BLM, on September 26, 1984, and March 8, 1985, notifying Brush Wellman that additional cultural resource inventories were not necessary in this Section for pit openings at that time. This correspondence was sent with respect to pit openings in the Rainbow and Blue Chalk pit groups.

In March, 1990, Brush Wellman forwarded the following documents to this office:

1. Volume I, Topaz Mining Property, Pre-1988 Permit Application and Correspondence Summary

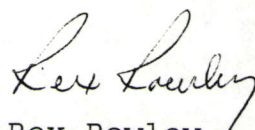
archaeologist to do the cultural resource inventory rather than waiting until our archaeologist has the time to do it. Any contractors must be approved by BLM, and we can provide you with a list of such professionals if you desire. Please let me know within five working days of whether you agree to this request.

My staff will prepare an EA that supplements the 1990 EA that addressed the impacts in areas similar to the present proposal. At this time, we do not anticipate this document to be a major undertaking, and it is now in draft form. The 1990 EA meets BLM's present standards for complying with NEPA, and the data in that document applies to the present proposal.

Finally, the record indicates that BLM has never approved the Plan that is currently approved by the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining. This Plan apparently is the *Topaz Mining Property*, Volumes I-III, and the *Topaz Mining Property Reclamation Plan*, Volumes 1 and 2. A copy of the above, except Volume II, has been filed with this office. In 1990, the EA and approval for the pit opening was specific to the two pits proposed at that time. Again, this year, the approval will be for the two proposed pits only. I believe that BLM's approval should be consistent with the State approval; however, at this time, I do not have the staff to undertake this larger work load. However, I am willing to discuss methods of rectifying this inconsistency between the State and BLM in the long term.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (801) 743-6811.

Sincerely,



Rex Rowley
Area Manager

cc: Wayne Hedberg, UDOGM